FLORA OF ROCKY CAPE

by

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THE AREA

The area studied lies between the two branching roads at the extreme tip of the Cape. One of these roads skirts the eastern side of the Cape and terminates at the old Jetty; the other runs approximately west and leads to the beach shacks. Between these two roads lies a rocky and very hilly area of approximately 220 acres. To the east these hills are very steep, rising to 420 feet. Much of this area has abrupt cliffs containing several caves. Mounds of shells and bones, indicating the use of the caves by aborigines in early days, have been described by Rhys Jones in this journal (No. 25, 1966).

HISTORY

Rocky Cape was named by Matthew Flinders in 1798. In his *Voyage to Terra Australis* he states:

> "During the night, and the next day, of Dec. 5, the winds were light and variable, so that we made little progress. At noon, the furthest land seen to the westward appeared like a small flat-topped island, but being found connected with the mainland, received the descriptive name of *Circular Head;* a near projection, of a jagged appearance was called *Rocky Cape*, and a steep cliffy head, still nearer, *Table Cape*, from its flat top."

The region examined in detail here is at the extreme tip of Rocky Cape. Further inland, the land rises to form the Rocky Cape Range and a few miles to the east are the Sisters Hills. These two ranges run some miles inland. The hills themselves appear to carry vegetation which is very similar to that which they bore when first discovered. The vegetation of the basaltic region on both sides of the ranges has altered greatly, where clearing of the forest has opened up hundreds of acres of fertile farmland. An idea of the vegetation originally to be found in these adjacent areas can be gained from an early newspaper article (*Launceston Examiner*, 22 May 1890):

> "The Detention ... is separated from Sisters Creek by the Barren Rocky Cape Range, bare of the slightest vestige of timber, and the almost equally desolate range of the Sisters. It [i.e. the

> Detention region] has been known in the past as Dallas's Forest ... and a dark and gloomy forest it was when the first track was cut through it. Never have I seen such heavily timbered country in Tasmania, as at the eastern end of this forest, the trees being estimated at 70 to 120 per acre."

The article goes on to relate how a young man named Cassidy became lost in the dense forest near Detention River. His horse turned up later at a nearby bush settlement and a search party went out to look for the missing man. The article then states:

> "They found where he had tried to light a fire, but his matches were damp, where he had caught a glimpse of barren bauera-covered hills to the southward and made for them, though the only settlement lay northward and at last a fortnight after he was lost, they came upon the body of poor Cassidy, disfigured by native cats, where he had lain down to die, worn out with starvation and fatigue."

The earliest botanical collector at Rocky Cape was undoubtedly James Backhouse, a visiting Quaker missionary. The following entry from his journal for 13 December 1832 was published in *A Narrative of a visit to the Australian Colonies* (1843):

> "Here [at the Detention River] we halted, on a grassy place where there was a small spring, and made tea, while the horses grazed; they being relieved from their burdens, and tethered to the bushes. When the horses were a little rested, we ascended the white quartz hills, of Rocky Cape, which were but thinly covered with sandy peat. A species of *Xanthorrhoea*, or Grass-tree, is scattered over them, having a root-stock of a few inches high, supporting a crest of stiff spreading rushy leaves, from the centre of which rises a stem from 2 to 5 feet high, thickly covered, excepting a few inches at the base, with rough buds, and with flowers resembling little white stars. A beautiful *Blandfordia* was also scattered in this district: its stems were 1½ ft. high, and supported crests of from 10 to 20 pendulous, red blossoms, margined with yellow, 1½ inch long, and 3/4 inch wide, at the mouth.
>
> Beyond these hills is a level, upon which, and on some contiguous hills, *Banksia serratifolia* is the prevailing tree. This, so far as I know, is its only locality in V.D. Land. It is equal to a Pear-tree in size, has leaves 3 to 4 inches long, and 5/8 broad, and strongly toothed: its heads of flowers are 6 inches long, and 12 round; and the seeds are as large as almonds."

The old jetty near the tip of the Cape was built about 1890. At that time the present Bass Highway was little more than a track and land transport

was by horse and bullock wagon. Sea transport was used considerably in the carriage of goods to and from the farming settlements between the Ranges and Stanley. After the road was improved and motor transport became common in the 1920's, the jetties gradually fell into a state of disrepair and were probably burnt when they became dangerous.

According to an early settler, there has been practically no change in the vegetation of Rocky Cape since the 1890's, except that recurring fires have destroyed most of the older honeysuckles *Banksia marginata*. Even before white settlement, fires were probably used often by the aborigines while hunting wallabies and other game.

GEOLOGY

The Pre-Cambrian core, containing the oldest rocks in the State, is confined largely to the western half of the island. It extends from Port Davey through to Rocky Cape in an almost unbroken sequence. Although most rocks of this period have undergone great changes, the sediments of Rocky Cape have suffered little change. Here we find white quartz sandstones trending into interbedded siltstones and mudstones. The exposed strata show well-defined tilting and represent part of the large-scale folds common to the north-west coast. In places, fragmented sandstones have formed vegetation-stabilized screes and, in such areas away from the tip of the Cape, gravel pits are being worked.

SOILS

These fall into the group termed Skeletal Soils and Moor Podzol Peats, described by K. D. Nicholls and G. M. Dimmock in the *Atlas of Tasmania* (1965, p. 28) as follows:

> "The skeletal soils of Tasmania are characteristic of steep slopes on the more siliceous rocks, where weathered material is quickly removed by erosion. The soils are shallow and sandy with numerous rock fragments and varying accumulation of organic matter, and are strongly acid, leached and infertile. They are interspersed with frequent exposures of bare rock."

VEGETATION

By far the most extensive formation on the Cape is a low heath, in which many plants are adapted to dry conditions, but there are several quite wet areas where marsh plants flourish. There are two of these wet areas to the east. One of them opens out into a small pond, surrounded by shrubs and ferns. The other is a sedgy area, about two chains long, running down from an overhanging cliff. To the north-west are two similar marshy areas. Near the shacks, just behind the coastal sand dunes, is a pond 2 - 3 chains long

and a chain wide, where water lies even in the driest seasons. This pond gradually spreads out into an extensive marshy area to the west.

These wet areas occupy about 4 - 5 acres; the remainder being dry, rocky, exposed soil which dries out, particularly in summer. The shallow soil contains much acidic peaty material which has built up over many thousands of years. In these dry areas, plants have many different ways of protecting themselves from drought. Most plants are of uniform height for any quick-growing shoot raised above its surroundings is quickly dried off by the sea winds. In consequence of this wind-pruning, some of the older tea trees to the east have assumed an almost prostrate habit. Also, in dry conditions plants tend to economise in their use of water. The main loss is from their leaves, so that many have modified leaves to prevent this. Some of the plants on the Cape have almost dispensed with leaves to limit transpiration. An example of this is the so-called Native Broom *Amperea xiphoclada*. Although commencing life with typical feathery leaves, many of the acacias soon replace these with flattened leaf-stalks or phyllodes. Eucalypts are able to stand dry conditions quite well, since they have a row of hardened cells on both sides of the leaf. Many other trees have this hardened layer only on the side exposed to the sun, while the underside is quite different in appearance. It is to be noted, as well, that while young gum leaves are spread with one surface of their leaves to the sun, older trees have their leaves hanging vertically. Pigface *Carpobrotus sp.* stores water in succulent leaves; while *Aotus ericoides* has the leaves rolled so that the stomata will not transpire excessive amounts of water. Prickly Moses *Acacia verticillata*, in very exposed situations, assumes an almost prostrate habit, and since its leaves are replaced by spines, it is able to withstand very dry conditions.

With such modifications, plants on the Cape are well adapted to the testing conditions.

Among these hardy plants are to be found a few that are normally encountered in rain-forest areas. An outstanding example is Climbing Blueberry *Billardiera longiflora* and the Rocky Cape examples of this plant are the rarer type with pink berries. Another notable trespasser from the rain-forests is Native Elderberry *Sambucus gaudichaudiana* and yet another is *Notelea ligustrina*. *Blandfordia* is regarded as a plant usually found in mountain regions. Here it is to be seen growing prolifically almost down to high-water mark.

On the north-western margin, near the coast, is to be found what is possibly the biggest Sea Box *Alyxia buxifolia* extant. This single tree forms a thicket some twelve feet across and ten feet high.

The Cape is well endowed with orchid species, no other plant family

being nearly so well represented. Two very rare endemics are to be found in the region, the Tailed Spider Orchid *Caladenia echidnachila* and *Prasophyllum brachystachyum*. The former has labellum "tails" up to 3 cm long. They are by no means common; an occasional specimen turning up amongst some hundreds of *Caladenia patersonii*. *P. brachystachyum* was originally described from material collected by R. C. Gunn at Rocky Cape in the 1830's. It was then lost for over 100 years until rediscovered in 1946 near Stanley. The author again collected this orchid in 1965 and 1966.

Working from the early, brief descriptions, some botanists claimed to have found this orchid in Victoria. Later comparisons with fresh material have shown it to be a Tasmanian endemic species.

Another rather common orchid to be found here is *Corybas unguiculatus*, there being several small colonies hidden at the bases of heath and tea trees to the north. Just outside the area, to the east, is a magnificent colony of *Burnettia cuneata* with several hundred individual plants. On a plain some two miles inland is the only Tasmanian colony of *Microtis orbicularis*.

Eleven species of fern are to be found on the Cape. The most frequently occurring are: Bracken *Pteridium esculentum*, Kangaroo Fern *Microsorium diversifolium* and Screw Fern *Lindsaya linearis*. Near the pond to the east are localised areas of *Gleichenia*. There are two small areas of Shore Spleenwort *Asplenium obtusatum* in rocky nooks to the north and west continually drenched with salt spray.

Remarkably, few introduced plants have gained a foothold on the Cape. A few grasses, clovers, thistles, Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, and Mouse-eared Chickweed *Cerastium glomeratum* are to be seen but generally little introduced vegetation is to be found. Slender Thistle *Carduus tenuiflorus* has started to invade from the west and it will be necessary to keep a close watch on its spread to the east. In view of the relative unimportance of introduced plants they have been omitted from the appended census.

Besides the two orchids already mentioned, there are a number of other endemic Tasmanian species in this small area, namely *Lomatia tinctoria*, *Blandfordia punicea*, *Boronia variabilis*, *Leptospermum glaucescens* and *Eriostemon virgatus*.

CENSUS OF INDIGENOUS PLANT SPECIES ON ROCKY CAPE

Only vascular species have been included (ferns and seed-plants). Arrangement and nomenclature follow that of J. H. Willis in *Handbook to Plants in Victoria* Vol. 1 (1962) for ferns and monocotyledons, but that of Winifred M. Curtis *(Student's Flora of Tasmania* Parts 1-3, 1956-67) for all dicotyledons. Frequencies of occurrence are indicated by the following abbreviations

in italics after each name and authority. This system follows that used by J. H. Willis in his "Flora of the Nut," *Rec. Queen Vict. Mus.* No. 21, 1966.

c common and widespread
r rare
vr very rare (only 1 or 2 individuals noted)
loc localised
occ occasional or scattered

PTERIDOPHYTA

SCHIZAEACEAE

Schizaea fistulosa Labill. - *occ*

GLEICHENIACEAE

Gleichenia circinnata Swartz - *loc* (near waterhole on east)
G. microphylla R.Br. - *loc* (as above)

DENNSTAEDTIACEAE

Pteridium esculentum (Forst.f.) Nakai - *c*

LINDSAYACEAE

Lindsaya linearis Swartz - *occ*

POLYPODIACEAE

Microsorium diversifolium (Willd.) Copeland - *c* (amongst rocks)

ASPLENIACEAE

Asplenium flabellifolium Cav. - *occ* (E. slopes)
A. obtusatum Forst.f. - *vr* (rock crevices to N. & W.)

ASPIDIACEAE

Rumohra adiantiformis (Forst.f.) Ching - *r* (high rock crevices)

BLECHNACEAE

Blechnum minus (R.Br.) Ettingsh. - *loc* (near E. waterhole)

SELAGINELLACEAE

Selaginella uliginosa (Labill.) Spring - *occ* (swampy areas)

SPERMATOPHYTA

JUNCAGINACEAE

Triglochin procera R.Br. - *loc* (pond N.W.)

GRAMINEAE

Tetrarrhena acuminata R.Br. - *loc* (W. swampy area)
Poa australis R.Br. - *c* (near coast)
Amphibromus recurvatus J.R.Swallen - *r* (W. swampy area)
Dichelachne crinita Hook.f. - *occ*

Deyeuxia quadriseta (Labill.) Benth. - *occ*
D. densa Benth. - *occ*
D. scaberula Vickery - *r*
Agrostis avenacea Gmelin - *occ*
Danthonia caespitosa Gaudich - *occ*
D. pilosa R.Br. - *occ*
D. penicillata (Labill.) Pal. Beauv. - *occ*
Stipa teretifolia Steud. - *loc* (cliffs and shoreline)
S. elatior (Benth.) Hughes - *occ*
Hemarthria uncinata R.Br. - *occ*

CYPERACEAE

Scirpus nodosus Rottb. - *c*
S. fluitans L. - *loc* (W. swampy area)
S. cernuus Vahl. - *c*
Schoenus tenuissimus Benth. - *occ*
S. nitens (R.Br.) Poir. - *occ*
Machaerina acuta (Labill). J.H.Kern - *c*
Gahnia sieberiana Kunth. - *r* (near West coast)
Lepidosperma gladiatum Labill. - *occ* (against sea)
L. concavum R.Br. - *c*
Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus (R.Br.) Hook.f. - *loc* (swampy areas)

RESTIONACEAE

Restio tetraphyllus Labill. - *occ*
R. complanatus R.Br. - *occ*
Hypolaena fastigiata R.Br. - *c*
Calorophus lateriflorus (R.Br.) F.v.M. - *occ*

CENTROLEPIDACEAE

Centrolepis strigosa (R.Br.) Roem.&Schult. - *occ* (N. rocks)

XYRIDACEAE

Xyris operculata Labill. - *loc* (swampy areas)
X. marginata Rendle - *loc* (swampy areas)

JUNCACEAE

Luzula campestris (L.) DC. - *c*
Juncus maritimus Lam. - *occ*
J. pallidus R.Br. - *occ*
J. planifolius R.Br. - *occ*

LILIACEAE

Xanthorrhoea australis R.Br. - *c*
Lomandra longifolia Labill. - *c*
Chamaescilla corymbosa (R.Br.) F.v.M. ex Benth. - *occ*

Plate 2. Rocky Cape seen from the west. (Photo - author).

Plate 4. Rocky Cape, north-west Tasmania. Rugged eastern coast of Cape extremity, with steep ericoid shrubbery between escarpments and sea (aboriginal rock-shelters under bluff on top left-hand corner).
(Photo - J.H. Willis)

Plate 3. The author admiring a very extensive plant of Sea Box *(Alyxia buxifolia)* on the north coast of the Cape. (Photo - J.H. Willis).

Plate 5. White quartzite "fingers" entering sea from north-east extremity of Cape (Table Cape on horizon at centre). (Photo - J. H. Willis).

Blandfordia punicea (Labill.) Sweet - *c*
Thysanotus patersonii R.Br. - *occ*
Stypandra caespitosa R.Br. - *c*
Laxmannia sessiliflora Dene - *c*
Dianella tasmanica Hook.f. - *occ*
D. revoluta R.Br. - *c*
Caesia parviflora R.Br. - *occ*

IRIDACEAE

Patersonia fragilis (Labill.) Druce - *occ*
P. longiscapa Sweet - *occ*

ORCHIDACEAE

Thelymitra grandiflora FitzG. - *occ*
T. pauciflora R.Br. - *occ*
T. aristata Lindl. - *occ*
T. ixioides Swartz - *occ*
T. nuda R.Br. - *r*
T. truncata Rogers - *r*
T. venosa R.Br. - *loc* (swampy areas)
T. flexuosa Endl. - *occ*
T. cyanea (Lindl.) Benth. - *loc* (swampy areas)
T. rubra FitzG. - *occ*
Calochilus saprophyticus Rogers - *loc* (swampy areas)
C. robertsonii Benth. - *occ*
C. paludosus R.Br. - *loc* (N. swampy areas)
Diuris longifolia R.Br. - *occ*
Microtis unifolia (Forst.f.) Rchb.f. - *occ*
Prasophyllum elatum R.Br. - *occ*
P. gracile Rogers - *r*
P. brachystachyum Lindl. - *occ*
P. fuscum R.Br. - *r*
Chiloglottis reflexa (Labill.) Druce - *loc* (E. slopes)
Acianthus caudatus R.Br. - *occ*
A. reniformis (R.Br.) Schl. - *occ*
A. exsertus R.Br. - *occ*
Eriochilus cucullatus (Labill.) Rchb.f. - *c*
Lyperanthus nigricans R.Br. - *occ*
Burnettia cuneata Lindl. - *loc* (plain to east)
Caladenia menziesii R.Br. - *r*
C. dilatata R.Br. - *r*
C. patersonii R.Br. - *c*
C. echidnachila Nicholls - *r*

C. latifolia R.Br. - *r*
C. carnea R.Br. - *c*
Glossodia major R.Br. - *c*
Corybas aconitiflorus Salisb. - *c*
C. dilatatus (Rupp & Nicholls) Rupp - *loc* (north slope)
C. unguiculatus (R.Br.) Rchb.f. - *loc* (amid undergrowth to north)
Cryptostylis subulata (Labill.) Rchb.f. - *loc* (W. swampy area)
Pterostylis parviflora R.Br. - *c*
P. pedoglossa FitzG. - *c*
P. nana R.Br. - *occ*
P. pedunculata R.Br. - *occ*
P. nutans R.Br. - *occ*
P. longifolia R.Br. - *occ*
P. barbata Lindl. - *occ*
Gastrodia sesamoides R.Br. - *occ*
Caleana major R.Br. - *loc* (north slope)

DILLENIACEAE

Hibbertia procumbens (Labill.) DC. - *c*
H. sericea (R.Br.) Benth. - *c*
H. fasciculata R.Br. ex DC. - *occ*
H. acicularis (Labill.) F.v.M. - *r*

RANUNCULACEAE

Clematis microphylla DC. - *occ*

CRUCIFERAE

Cardamine heterophylla Hook. - *occ*
C. intermedia Hook. - *occ*

VIOLACEAE

Viola hederacea Labill. - *c*

PITTOSPORACEAE

Bursaria spinosa Cav. - *r*
Billardiera longiflora Labill. - *r* (N. coast)
Marianthus procumbens Benth. - *c*

TREMANDRACEAE

Tetratheca glandulosa Labill. - *occ*
T. ciliata Lindl. - *occ*
T. pilosa Labill. - *occ*

POLYGALACEAE

Comesperma volubile Labill. - *occ*
C. retusum Labill. - *r* (W. swampy areas)

C. calymega Labill. - *occ*

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Sagina maritima G.Don. - *occ*

PORTULACACEAE

Calandrinia calyptrata Hook.f. - *occ*

LINACEAE

Linum marginale A.Cunn. - *occ* (west coast)

GERANIACEAE

Pelargonium australe Willd. - *occ* (near coast)

Geranium solanderi R.Carolin - *c*

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis corniculata L. - *occ*

RUTACEAE

Correa alba Andr. - *occ*

C. backhousiana Hook. - *c*

Boronia variabilis Hook. - *c*

B. nana var. *nana* Hook. - *occ*

B. pilosa var. *laricifolia* Hook f. - *occ*

B. pilonema Labill. - *loc*

Eriostemon virgatus A.Cunn. ex Hook.f. - *occ*

STACKHOUSIACEAE

Stackhousia monogyna Labill. - *c*

S. spathulata Sieb. ex Spreng. - *occ* (sand against sea)

RHAMNACEAE

Pomaderris apetala Labill. - *loc*

MIMOSACEAE

Acacia verticillata var. *ovoidea* (L.Her) Willd. - *occ*

A. myrtifolia (Sm.) Willd. - *c*

A. suaveolens (Sm.) Willd. - *c*

A. mucronata Willd. - *occ*

A. sophorae (Labill.) R.Br. - *occ*

A. stricta (Andrews) Willd. - *loc* (N. coast)

A. botrycephala Desf. - *occ*

A. melanoxylon R.Br. - *r*

PAPILIONACEAE

Sphaerolobium vimineum Sm. - *r*

Gompholobium huegelii Benth. - *occ*

Aotus ericoides (Vent.) G.Don. -*c*

Pultenaea daphnoides Wendl. - *occ*

P. dentata Labill. - *occ*
Dillwynia sericea A.Cunn. - *c*
D. glaberrima Sm. - *occ*
D. cinerascens R.Br. - *c*
Platylobium obtusangulum Hook. - *c*
Kennedya prostrata R.Br. - *c*
Bossiaea cordigera Benth. - *occ*
B. cinerea R.Br. - *occ*
Lotus australis Andr. - *loc* (western sandbanks)

ROSACEAE
Acaena ovina A.Cunn. - *occ*
A. anserinifolia (J.R.&G.Forst.) Druce - *occ*

CRASSULACEAE
Tillaea sieberiana Schultes - *c*
T. macrantha Hook.f. - *c*

DROSERACEAE
Drosera auriculata Backh. ex Planch. - *c*
D. peltata Sm. - *occ*
D. binata Labill. - *loc* (swampy areas)
D. pygmaea DC. - *occ*
D. spathulata Labill. - *loc* (swampy areas)

HALORAGACEAE
Haloragis tetragyna (Labill.) Hook.f. - *c*
H. teucrioides DC. - *c*
H. micrantha (Thunb.) R.Br. - *occ*

MYRTACEAE
Calytrix tetragona Labill. - *c*
Baeckea ramosissima A.Cunn. - *occ*
Leptospermum scoparium Forst. - *c*
L. glaucescens S.Schauer - *c*
Melaleuca squarrosa Sm. - *occ*
M. squamea Labill. - *occ*
M. ericifolia Sm. - *loc* (swampy areas)
M. gibbosa Labill. - *loc* (near western pond)
Eucalyptus simmondsii Maiden - *occ*
E. ovata Labill. - *occ*

ONAGRACEAE
Epilobium billardierianum Ser. ex DC. - *occ* (swampy areas)

AIZOACEAE
Carpobrotus rossii (Haw.) Schwantes - *occ* (near coast)

Tetragonia tetragonioides (Pall.) Kuntze - *occ*

UMBELLIFERAE

Trachymene anisocarpa (Turcz.) Burtt - *c*

Xanthosia pilosa Rudge - *occ*

X. tridentata DC. - *loc* (nr. road junction)

X. pusilla Bunge - *occ*

Hydrocotyle hirta R.Br. ex Rich. - *c*

H. muscosa R.Br. ex Rich. - *occ*

Apium prostratum Vent. - *loc* (sea coast)

Centella cordifolia (Hook.f.) Nannf. - *occ*

Daucus glochidiatus (Labill.) Fisch. - *occ*

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Sambucus gaudichaudiana DC. - *r*

RUBIACEAE

Coprosma hirtella Labill. - *r*

Opercularia varia Hook.f. - *c*

Galium australe DC. - *occ*

COMPOSITAE

Lagenophera stipitata (Labill.) Druce - *occ*

Olearia ramulosa (Labill.) Benth. - *occ*

Gnaphalium luteo-album L. - *occ*

G. involucratum Forst.f. - *occ*

G. japonicum Thunb. - *occ*

G. purpureum L. - *occ*

Helichrysum scorpioides Labill. - *c*

H. dealbatum Labill. - *occ* (wet soils)

H. bicolor Lindl. - *loc* (near coast)

H. apiculatum (Labill.) DC. - *occ*

H. dendroideum N.A.Wakefield - *occ*

Calocephalus brownii (Cass.) F.v.M. - *occ*

Cotula australis (Sieb. ex Spreng.) Hook.f. - *occ*

C. reptans Benth. - *loc* (near western pond)

Senecio lautus Forst.f. ex Willd. - *occ*

S. linearifolius A.Rich. - *occ*

S. minimus Poir. - *occ*

S. hispidulus A.Rich. - *occ*

Sonchus megalocarpus (Hook.f.) J.M.Black - *loc* (on coast)

STYLIDIACEAE

Stylidium graminifolium (Swartz.) ex Willd. - *occ*

GOODENIACEAE

Goodenia geniculata R.Br. - *c*

CAMPANULACEAE

Wahlenbergia quadrifida (R.Br.) A. DC. - *occ*

W. gracilenta N. Lothian - *occ*

LOBELIACEAE

Pratia pedunculata (R.Br.) Benth. - *loc* (wet places)

Lobelia alata Labill. - *loc* (marshy areas)

EPACRIDACEAE

Cyathodes oxycedrus (Labill.) R.Br. - *r* (near coast)

Leucopogon parviflorus (Andr.) Lindl. - *occ*

L. collinus (Labill.) R.Br. - *occ*

L. australis R.Br. - *occ*

L. virgatus (Labill.) R.Br. - *occ*

L. ericoides (Sm.) R.Br. - *occ*

Epacris impressa Labill. - *c*

E. lanuginosa Labill. - *loc* (wet areas)

E. obtusifolia Sm. - *loc* (wet areas)

Sprengelia incarnata Sm. - *loc* (wet areas)

Astroloma humifusum (Cav.) R.Br. - *occ*

PRIMULACEAE

Samolus repens (Forst. & Forst.f.) Pers. - *loc* (sea coast)

APOCYNACEAE

Alyxia buxifolia R.Br. - *occ* (near sea coast)

LOGANIACEAE

Mitrasacme pilosa Labill. - *c*

GENTIANACEAE

Villarsia reniformis R.Br. - *loc* (near western pond)

Centaurium australe (R.Br.) Druce - *occ*

CONVOLVULACEAE

Dichondra repens J.R.& G.Forst - *occ*

Convolvulus erubescens Sims - *occ*

SOLANACEAE

Solanum laciniatum Ait. - *occ* (nr. coast)

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Veronica derwentia Andr. - *occ*

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Utricularia dichotoma Labill. - *loc* (wet areas)

U. lateriflora R.Br. - *loc* (wet areas)

LABIATAE

Ajuga australis R.Br. - *r*

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago varia R.Br. - *occ* (grassy areas)

CHENOPODIACEAE

Rhagodia baccata (Labill.) Moq. - *occ* (coastal areas)

Salicornia quinqueflora Bunge ex Ung-Sternb. - *loc* (western coastal area)

Atriplex billardieri (Moq.) Hook.f. - *loc* (sandy beaches)

LAURACEAE

Cassytha glabella R.Br. - *occ*

C. pubescens R.Br. - *occ*

PROTEACEAE

Persoonia juniperina Labill. - *occ*

Banksia marginata Cav. - *c*

Lomatia tinctoria R.Br. - *loc* (near top of highest peak)

THYMELAEACEAE

Pimelea lindleyana Meissn. - *occ*

P. linifolia Sm. - *c*

SANTALACEAE

Leptomaria drupaceae (Labill.) Druce - *vr* (near shacks)

EUPHORBIACEAE

Poranthera microphylla Brongn. - *occ*

Amperea xiphoclada (Sieb. ex Spreng.) Druce - *c*

CASUARINACEAE

Casuarina monilifera L.Johnson - *occ*

BRYOPHYTES

As an addendum to this paper, Mr. J. H. Willis, Assistant Government Botanist for Victoria, has kindly furnished the following brief report on the bryophyte flora (mosses and hepatics) of Rocky Cape:

On the afternoon of 4 January 1967, the opportunity was taken to collect whatever mosses and hepatics were then in evidence on rock, earth or wood around the terminal hills of the Cape. The three lichens *Caloplaca ?cinnabarina* (abundant on quartzite surfaces as an orange-red encrustation), *Cladia aggregata* and *C. retipora* were also taken; but the time available was far too short to make any significant collection of the lichen flora. Very few fungi were seen at the height of the dry summer season, so no attempt was made to list the species in this large, diverse group.

Rocky Cape appears to have a rather limited moss flora, poor in comparison with that on The Nut to the north-west and Table Cape to the east. No *Bryum*, *Fissidens* or *Lembophyllum* has yet been noted, although these genera

are well represented on both of the higher above-mentioned headlands. Doubtless, an intensive search during springtime would augment the moss list for Rocky Cape to some extent; but its very different geological structure - quartzite as against basalt - is an important reason for this poverty. Nevertheless, the few bryophytes that were observered in January 1967 are intriguing from a distributional aspect. Out of nineteen species collected at Rocky Cape, seven (or 37%) have not yet been seen on the bryologically much richer basaltic bluffs of Table Cape (40 known species) and The Nut* or Circular Head (35 species).

Of particular interest are the mosses *Dicranoloma menziesii* and *Dicranoweisia antarctica*. The former is normally an inhabitant of shaded fern-gullies, while the latter is typically subantarctic and was unknown from any part of Australia until the writer collected samples on the dolerite summit of Mt. Field West (4,700 ft) in December 1952; it occurs also at Macquarie Island and on high New Zealand peaks, but an occurrence on Bass Strait, at sea level, was quite unexpected. Incidentally, this Rocky Cape collection is in excellent fruit and more robust than usual. *Sphagnum subsecundum*, Bog Moss, was abundant in damp peaty areas between the hills; it is absent from The Nut and Table Cape (where comparable sandy heathland is lacking), as also apparently are the two hepatics *Cuspidatula monodon* and *Jamesoniella colorata*.

LIST OF SPECIES

MUSCI (Mosses)

Breutelia affinis (Hook.) Mitt.
Campylopus introflexus (Hedw.) Brid.
C. bicolor (Hornsch.) Hook.f.
Dicnemoloma sieberianum (Hornsch.) Ren.
Dicranoloma billardieri (Schwaegr.) Paris
Dicranoweisia antarctica (C.Muell.) Paris
Rhacopilum convolutaceum (C.Muell.) Mitt.
Rhynchostegium tenuifolium (Hedw.) Jaeg.
Sematophyllum homomallum (Hampe) Broth.
Sphagnum subsecundum Nees
Thuidium furfurosum (Hook.f. & Wils.) Jaeg.
Tortella calycina (Schwaegr.) Dixon
Zygodon intermedius Bruch & Schimp.

HEPATICAE (Liverworts)

Cuspidatula monodon (Hook.f. & Tayl.) Steph.
Frullania falciloba (Tayl.) Tayl.
Jamesoniella colorata (Lehm.) Spruce
Lophocolea semiteres (Lehm.) Mitt.
Metzgeria furcata (L.) Dumort.

*See these *Records* No. 21, pp 4 & 8 (1966).

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